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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/621,368	07/18/2003	Takashi Tamaki	OKI.550	4056
20987	7590	09/14/2004	EXAMINER	
VOLENTINE FRANCOS, & WHITT PLLC ONE FREEDOM SQUARE 11951 FREEDOM DRIVE SUITE 1260 RESTON, VA 20190			CHANG, DANIEL D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2819	

DATE MAILED: 09/14/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/621,368

Applicant(s)

TAMAKI, TAKASHI

Examiner

Daniel D. Chang

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 9-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7,8,15 and 16 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7/18/03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Claim Objections

Claim 12 is objected to because of the following typographical error: on line 2, "down-converting" appears to be --descending--. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

The term "type" in claims 6 and 14 is a relative term which renders the claim indefinite. The term "type" is not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Orii et al. (US 5,559,464).

Regarding claims 1 and 9, Orii et al. discloses, in Fig. 1, a voltage level shifting circuit comprising:

a first power supply node supplied with a first power supply potential level (ground);

a second power supply node supplied with a second power supply potential level (3V) higher than the first power supply potential level;

a third power supply node supplied with a third power supply potential level (5V) higher than the second power supply potential level;

a signal input circuit (1) which is coupled between the first power supply node and the second power supply node, which receives a signal having the first and second power supply potential levels, and which outputs a complementary signal (V_{in} , $/V_{in}$) having the first and second power supply potential levels;

a complimentary signal input circuit (Q1, Q2) which is coupled to the first power supply node and which includes a first pair of MOS transistors (Q1, Q2), each of the first MOS transistors has a first withstand voltage (NMOS) and has a first electrode coupled to the first power supply node, a second electrode, and a gate electrode receiving the complementary signal;

a load circuit (Q3, Q4) which is coupled to the third power supply node and which includes a second pair of MOS transistors, each of the second MOS transistors has a second withstand voltage (PMOS) higher than the first withstand voltage and has a first electrode coupled to the third power supply node, a second electrode, and a gate electrode;

a first voltage down-converting/descending circuit (Q11, Q21) which is coupled between the load circuit and the complimentary signal input circuit and which prevents a potential level exceeding the first withstand voltage from supplying to the complimentary signal input circuit;

a third MOS transistor (Q8) which is coupled between the third power supply node and an output node, which has the second withstand voltage (PMOS), and which electrically

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connects the third power supply node to the output node in response to a voltage potential (N2) outputted from the load circuit;

a fourth MOS transistor (Q7) which is coupled between the first power supply node and the output node, which has the first withstand voltage (NMOS), and which electrically connects the first power supply node to the output node in response to one of the voltage potentials of the complimentary signal; and

a second voltage down-converting/descending circuit (Q71) which is coupled between the third MOS transistor and the fourth MOS transistor and which prevents a potential level exceeding the first withstand voltage from supplying to the fourth MOS transistor.

Regarding claims 2, 3, 10, and 11, Orii et al. discloses, in Fig. 1, that the first voltage down-converting/descending circuit comprises a fifth pair of MOS transistors (Q11, Q21), each of which has a first electrode coupled to the load circuit, a second electrode coupled to the corresponding second electrodes of the first MOS transistors, and a gate electrode supplied with a fixed voltage potential level (second power supply potential level, 3V).

Regarding claims 4, 5, 12, and 13, Orii et al. discloses, in Fig. 1, that the second voltage down-converting/descending circuit comprises a sixth MOS transistor (Q71) which has a first electrode coupled to the third MOS transistor, a second electrode coupled to the fourth MOS transistor, and a gate electrode supplied with a fixed voltage potential level (second power supply potential level, 3V).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 7, 8, 15, and 16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Wei (US 5,736,869) discloses an output driver with level shifting and voltage protection.

Morris (US 6,064,229) discloses a voltage translating buffer based on low voltage technology.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel D. Chang whose telephone number is (571) 272-1801. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael J. Tokar can be reached on (571) 272-1812. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel D. Chang". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Daniel" and last name "Chang" clearly distinguishable.

Daniel D. Chang
Primary Examiner
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DC

DANIEL CHANG
PRIMARY EXAMINER